

asked native gorilla and chimpanzee hunters which one was the most dangerous game, and the answer was always in favor of the gorilla. To get a real good close-up view of a live gorilla is a treat indeed.

Other questions often asked me on my return from Africa were: Do gorillas or chimpanzees capture native women and carry them off into the bush? And: Will the gorilla advance to attack unless he is wounded? As to the first question, I asked natives in all the localities I visited if such was the case and the answer was always in the negative. I saw several natives, both men and women, however, who had been badly wounded by gorillas. As to the second question, yes. I had gorillas deliberately advance on me and on account of the density of the brush I had to retreat. I found, though, that when a gorilla came at me it always gave up the chase in a little while.

U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

THE RED SQUIRREL OF THE SITKAN DISTRICT, ALASKA

BY H. S. SWARTH

The red squirrel of southeastern Alaska was placed with *Sciurus hudsonicus vancouverensis* by J. A. Allen in his "Revision of the Chickarees," where *vancouverensis* was first described (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 10, 1898, p. 269). The present writer, in a report upon a collection of birds and mammals from Vancouver Island, comments upon certain features that distinguish the red squirrel of southeastern Alaska from typical *vancouverensis* of Vancouver Island (Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, 1912, p. 88), without formally naming the Alaskan race. Further study of the red squirrels of the northwest coast region has emphasized the desirability of giving a name to this Alaskan form. It may be diagnosed as follows:

Sciurus hudsonicus picatus new subspecies

KUPREANOF RED SQUIRREL

Type.—Male adult, skin and skull; no. 8767, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Kupreanof Island, 25 miles south of Kake Village, at southern end of Keku Straits, southeastern Alaska; April 23, 1909; collected by H. S. Swarth; original no. 7281.

¹ Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.

Diagnosis.—A red squirrel with the general characters of *Sciurus hudsonicus*. Cranially, most nearly resembling *Sciurus hudsonicus petulans*; externally, more nearly like *S. h. vancouverensis*.

Comparisons.—*Sciurus h. petulans*, as compared with *vancouverensis*, is stated by Osgood (N. Am. Fauna, No. 19, 1900, p. 27, pl. V, figs. 1, 2) to have the "nasals longer and posteriorly more compressed than in *vancouverensis*; orbital arch with a sharp indentation between lachrymal and postorbital process." These differences do not exist between *petulans* and *picatus*. There are individuals in the latter series that show intergradation toward *vancouverensis* in shape of nasals or in partial elimination of the orbital indentation described, but the series as a whole is, cranially, not to be distinguished from *petulans*.

As regards color, *Sciurus h. picatus* is dark as compared with *petulans*, but it is distinctly brighter than *vancouverensis*. The differences are most apparent in winter pelage; in the summer coat the two forms are closely similar in general appearance, differing only in certain minor details. In the winter coat *vancouverensis* is nearly uniform dark chestnut above, with the reddish dorsal stripe poorly defined; the tail is reddish above, but decidedly grayish on the ventral surface. In *picatus* the reddish color is generally brighter, there is a fairly well-defined hazel dorsal stripe and the center of the tail below is reddish. The black lateral stripe on the body is much more prominent. In all pelages *picatus* has the tip of the tail much less extensively black than is the case with *vancouverensis*. *Sciurus h. picatus* is slightly the larger of the two. For external measurements of *Sciurus h. picatus* and *S. h. vancouverensis* see Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, 1912, p. 88.

Distribution.—The area inhabited includes parts of the Sitkan district, Alaska, and extends for an undetermined distance southward. There are specimens at hand from the following islands: Kupreanof, Kuiu, Mitkof, Wrangell, Zarembo, Etolin, Revillagigedo, and Sergief. From mainland points: Taku River, Thomas Bay, Stikine River, Bradfield Canal, Chickamin River. (For details of distribution see Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 7, 1911, pp. 118, 153, map, fig. 1.)

Remarks.—The material upon which the above comparisons are made is as follows: *Sciurus h. vancouverensis*, 28 specimens from Vancouver Island (Mus. Vert. Zool.). *Sciurus h. picatus*, 36 specimens from the Alaskan localities previously indicated (32 in Mus. Vert. Zool., 4 in the E. P. Walker collection). *Sciurus h. petulans*, 17 from Glacier Bay (Mus. Vert. Zool.), 4 from Wells, Chilkat Valley (E. P. Walker collection).

The Glacier Bay specimens appear to be typical of *petulans*. The four skins from Chilkat Valley are, in color, intermediate between *petulans* and *picatus*; the skulls are not available. In his description of *petulans*, Osgood (loc. cit.) treats *vancouverensis* as a distinct species, a view that has since been disregarded (see Miller, List of North American Land Mammals, 1912, p. 321), and which my own material controverts. The race *picatus* is in itself intermediate between *petulans*

and *vancouverensis*, and in the *picatus* series there is individual variation tending to bridge the gap in either direction. The indentation in the orbital arch, given by Osgood as a feature distinguishing *petulans* from *vancouverensis*, is not a character to be absolutely relied upon. This little notch is sharply indicated in the *petulans* series, as I believe it is in the red squirrels of the interior of the northwest generally. In the Vancouver Island skulls at hand there are none in which it is at all deeply cut. In some it is entirely absent, but usually there is a suggestion of a notch at that point. The southern Alaskan series contains none in which the notch is as nearly eliminated as in most of the Vancouver Island skulls, and as a rule it is as apparent as in the *petulans* series. It is not a character the presence or absence of which can be indicated in each of the skulls; it appears in all degrees from one extreme to the other.

Berkeley, California.

REVISED LIST OF THE SPECIES IN THE GENUS *DIPODOMYS*¹

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL

A bare list of names is a pretty poor offering, not ordinarily worth printing. But in the present revised list enumerating sixty species and subspecies of kangaroo rats a good deal of new information is set forth in a concentrated form. The main basis of this contribution is a relatively extensive systematic and distributional study of the genus as occurring within the limits of California. The more comprehensive report upon this study is likely to be long delayed in the press, if, indeed, it ever sees the light of publication.

The 33 forms now known to occur in this state (California) have been determined upon after examination of a large amount of material, over 2800 skins with skulls. Confidence as to their status is much greater than with most of the remaining forms, of which material has been accessible in only scant amount. Still, first impressions, as gained of the latter, may be worthy of consideration, when gathered upon the basis of the rather intensive study of the other forms.

The "*ordii* group" is accepted practically as revised by Goldman (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 30, 1917, p. 113).

¹ Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.